



*Joint Meeting of the
Board of Directors &
Estuary Implementation Committee*

**2nd Floor Conference Room, 110 South Poplar St., Wilmington Delaware
Thursday, February 27, 2019 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

EIC Draft Meeting Notes

Meeting Participants: Chis Anderson PWD; Emily Baumbach, PDE; Liz Butler, EPA Region 2; Kim Cole, DNREC; Roxanne Jayne, Roxanne E Jayne, LLC (PDE Board); Kathy Klein, PDE; Danielle Kreeger, PDE; Megan Mackey, EPA Region 3; Catherine Magliocchetti, EPA Region 3; Rhonda Manning, PADEP; Chad Pindar, DRBC; Irene Purdy, EPA Region 2

1) Reintroductions and Approval of January 9, 2020 EIC meeting notes

- EIC meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m. after the morning PDE Board of Directors' meeting and brief lunch break.
- **Kathy Klein** called the meeting order and welcomed EIC members.
- **Emily Baumbach** circulated a copy of the draft January 9th meeting minutes.
 - No additional changes to the draft EIC minutes were received.

2) FY21 NEP Work Plan

- **K. Klein** asked if EPA had any updates on guidance for fundraising for National Estuary Programs (NEP) since 320 funds are not to be used for fundraising according to the current guidance.
 - As the guidance is currently written, you cannot allocate grant writing as a direct cost, but it can be allocated as an indirect cost.
- **Megan Mackey:** NEPs cannot exceed more than 5% of the total NEP funding as a direct cost.
 - EPA will know more in early March.
- **Danielle Kreeger:** If we're sticking to the State of the Estuary rotation, work on this should be included in the 2021 NEP workplan.
 - Part of the DELEP budget is used for State of the Estuary report development.
 - PDE previously tabled The Regional Restoration Initiative (covering the project registry, natural capital framework, and the Regional Restoration Workgroup) because we needed funding for Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan (CCMP) revision.
- **K. Klein:** PDE wants to restructure the workplan since there's so lots of redundancies in the format and reporting process.
 - There's not enough money for PDE Outreach right now and there hasn't been for many years.
 - PDE needs to reevaluate outreach events and find new ways to create experiences that better engage with people.
 - PDE will share a draft FY21 workplan with the EIC for the spring meeting.

- **M. Mackey:** There's no standard template for workplan reporting for NEPs.
- **K. Klein:** Many partners in our region don't realize that their work is implementing actions in the CCMP.
- **Chris Anderson:** There have been several shifts across the watershed recently with the Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI) and Phase 2 planning.
 - We need to find a way to remind people what the CCMP is as well as the role they can play.
- **D. Kreeger:** This is an opportune time to bring up the Trust for the Delaware Estuary again since it looks like there's an increasing need for this.
- **K. Klein:** We need to look at how the Estuary Program can reengage with partners in our region and streamline the work that's taking place

3) **PDE Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) and Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) Update** **1:15 – 1:45**

A. Environmental Justice (EJ) Training

- **Emily Baumbach** gave an overview of the EPA Region 3 Environmental Justice Training scheduled for March 19th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
 - There will be speakers from the EPA Region 3 Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment.
 - The meeting will provide an environmental justice historical context overview, tutorial on the EPA EJSCREEN mapping tool, and a risk study conducted in Chester, PA.

B. DEIJ Consultant for PDE

- **E. Baumbach:** PDE has been looking into selecting a DEIJ contractor.
 - PDE wants to bring someone on board that will be able to provide an internal organizational assessment, workshop/training for PDE staff, EIC, and PDE Board of Directors, and provide a list of next steps for PDE following the training.
 - Many contractor rates were expensive and a little more than we expected, but we found a few consultants in our region that are in our budget.
- **D. Kreeger:** We could have a session at the Summit that provides case studies for different organizations that embarked on a DEIJ journey and then ask them to report out on where they are now.
 - Bartram's Garden is a great source for case studies through their work with keeping local students in Philadelphia engaged from a young age through college in the environmental field.
 - There are so many cultural barriers to STEM right now, and we could do more projects like mussels in the classroom.
- **K. Klein:** Lots of funders are now funding the local communities rather than the environmental nonprofits to get work done and these communities are going to need to reach out to organizations in order to implement projects.
 - We need to make a conscious effort to form more community relationships in our region and build more trust.

C. Urban Waters Federal Partnership Updates

- **K. Klein:** Since there's so much overlap with PDE, the NEP, and priorities for Urban Waters, PDE seemed like a good fit to house the Urban Waters Ambassador for the Delaware River Partnership.
 - Emily Baumbach at PDE will take the lead as the Ambassador.
 - We met with Krista Heinlen of the Davey Institute and US Forest Service who was the former Ambassador.
 - Krista provided helpful information and a list of previous contacts.
- **M. Mackey:** There's been so much agency transition with the folks involved in this partnership, so it will be helpful to solidify partners and future plans.
 - EPA is a federal partner, but the leads are currently NOAA and the US Forest Service for this location.
 - We still need to define what the roles of the lead organizations are.
 - The Delaware Estuary Program is already in the location of the Urban Waters Partnership.
 - The Forest Service, NOAA, and the DOI discussed that the Estuary Program should stay engaged in Urban Waters.
 - Urban Waters is not a funded program, but PDE can provide a good opportunity to convene stakeholders in the Urban Waters Partnership.
 - We don't want to force another workgroup or series of meetings or newsletters going out to the same people they already do from PDE or others in the region.
 - We are interested in getting additional funding for PDE to work towards their goals and the goals of Urban Waters.
- **K. Klein:** The Summit is a good place to rally people around Urban Waters.
- **D. Kreeger:** If funders are hitting on CCMP strategies, even if it's not a PDE-funded grant, this still helps us implement the work if organizations say they are doing it.
- **D. Kreeger:** For NOAA Restoration Center applicants, it seems like NEPs are blocked out from that program.
 - We created the Regional Restoration Blueprint, the project registry, and the Regional Restoration Workgroup, but everything that was submitted was never funded.
- **C. Anderson:** A value that PDE is lacking is on relationship building and intergovernmental partnerships (with NOAA, EPA, DOI, etc.).
 - We can look at where the resources and disparities are and review what's outlined in the CCMP to see where there are opportunities to expand and put us in a stronger position for implementation.
- **D. Kreeger:** There's lots of funding for strategic planning, but then it's hard to get funding to actually implement the work.
- **M. Mackey:** With Urban Waters, we don't want it to turn into EPA collecting updates and accomplishments on work already going on and repackaging it as Urban Waters initiatives.
- **K. Klein:** We want to convene a steering group of federal partners and key partners of each of the four cities.
 - We need to find a way to create a dialogue and develop some initiatives that can be implemented in each of the cities (e.g., rain gardens, living shorelines)
- **M. Mackey:** Chester, PA has been very involved with the Brownfields meetings.
 - Even if convening in-person meetings is challenging, holding calls and for partners with city representatives and Park Service, Forest Service, NOAA, and EPA to keep discussions going would be good.

- These calls could then move into quarterly community practice meetings once folks become more involved.
- **D. Kreeger:** Rather than just holding more meetings, we could work on implementing some on-the-ground projects (e.g., natural infrastructure for flood buffering for climate resilience, environmental justice, youth outreach, volunteer-based mussel gardening, wetlands enhancements to help buffer storm surge/erosion control).
 - We could have a four city shared learning curve that is mutually beneficial.
- **M. Mackey:** EPA has an ORISE fellow who could attend on upcoming calls and meetings and help take meeting notes.
- **Kate Layton:** I'm the PDE Communications Coordinator and oversee the publication of *Estuary News*.
 - If there are certain projects or activities going on in your agencies in the Delaware Estuary related to the CCMP, please send to Kate at klayton@delawareestuary.org.
 - PDE is looking for ways to link *Estuary News* content to the CCMP.
- **Kim Cole:** DNREC's wetlands program has an e-newsletter with writers already, so some of the content could be repackaged for *Estuary News*.

4) Plans for 2020 CCMP Tracking

1:45 – 2:15

- **E. Baumbach** reviewed the schedule for CCMP Goals to be discussed on the upcoming monthly EIC calls for 2020 CCMP implementation tracking and reviewed a draft CCMP survey to be distributed to the NEP Directors for feedback.
- **K. Klein:** We can add a question on the survey to ask partners how they report out on CCMP progress and how they tell this story to people in their region.
- **K. Cole:** CCMP tracking is a great opportunity for other partners to tell their stories.
 - Information could be included in newsletters.
- **K. Klein:** We want to provide the opportunity for partners to report out on the work they are doing.
 - We could have photos and a story on the cover of *Estuary News* as a prize for partners that send in the most projects, or gets information in first, etc.

5) Spring Steering Committee Conference Call

2:15 – 2:30

- **K. Klein:** At some point, we will want to revisit idea of how Steering Committee members could think of creative ways that we can garner support for CCMP strategies in their RFPs, whether PDE is an applicant or not.
- **D. Kreeger:** Steering Committee members are the individuals usually in the room when money for settlements is getting decided.
 - We want to know if they would be willing to look through a CCMP lens when these types of discussions take place.
 - This brings us back to the importance of pushing the Delaware Estuary trust concept forward
 - Even small foundations have trusts.
- **D. Kreeger:** It might be helpful to remind Steering Committee members where certain PDE science and strategic planning priorities are coming from.

- Monitoring feeds into Technical Report for the Estuary and Basin (TREB) indicators which feeds to CCMP and then CCMP tracking links back into the CCMP Monitoring approach and framework.
- PDE will then periodically create products like projects looking at bivalve return on investment and the White Paper on the Status and Needs of Science in the Delaware Estuary.
- Project implementation is largely from other types of funding outside of NEP dollars.
 - Without a trust or some other funding mechanism, we are going to just keep planning.
- **K. Cole:** All the state partners are doing on-the-ground work without 320 funds, but it would still be helpful to have a pot of funds to focus some of these efforts.
- **K. Klein:** I could give an overview of some of the work currently going on across the watershed (e.g., William Penn Foundation and the DRWI, the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program)
 - The dots in this watershed are not connected right now and that's what is really missing.
 - We can maximize our resources once we can see where the redundancies are.

6) Other Updates

2:30 – 3:00

- **D. Kreeger:** Provided updates from the last Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting
 - The STAC met January 15th.
 - The STAC hasn't updated their charter since 2006.
 - The committee wants to cap the membership at 25 instead of 21 to include more scientific expertise on the committee.
 - Part of the EIC's function is to review and bless any changes made to STAC charters.
 - The charter is still in need of review by the STAC and will then go to the EIC.
- **M. Mackey:** Kristin Regan is the new STAC chair as well as the EPA Region 3 representative on the MACC.
- **D. Kreeger:** Provided Delaware Estuary Summit updates.
 - We have been at capacity the last two summits.
 - Some of the major criticism has been that the venue is constraining, so PDE has been looking at moving locations for future summits, most likely Bally's in Atlantic City, NJ.
 - The STAC usually helps to identify a few plenary speakers and the summit theme, and then PDE starts marketing for sponsors and exhibitors.
 - We want to have a trade show, topical sessions, as well as a workshop at the next summit.
- **C. Anderson:** A summit theme that covers planning for the future could be a good idea.
 - What happens in the Delaware Estuary once certain funding streams go away?
 - PDE has great facilitation strength, and you could review examples of collaboration and the successes as well as challenges.
 - This could be a presentation or even a panel at the next summit.
- **Rhonda Manning:** The new Acting Director of Compacts and Commissions Office is Summer Konkel, who is taking over for Jen Orr's position.
 - Rhonda will provide Summer's contact information to the group.

- PADEP created a new position and now has Jill Anderson dedicated to PFAS work and will coordinate efforts related to drinking water in the Safe Drinking Water Program.
- **Chad Pindar:** The Commissioner approved a new advisory committee on climate change and DRBC is currently taking resumes to fill slots for this advisory committee.
 - There are reserved and non-reserved members, which is typical of all DRBC advisory committees.
 - The non-reserves members are being advertised right now.
- **K. Cole:** DNREC received a message asking for a named member recommendation for this committee, but we don't know what the purpose of the group is.
 - Is it for technical aspects of climate change, impacts of water quality, habitats, or all of the above?
- **C. Pindar:** A little of all of the above, but we will send an information sheet on the advisory committee.
 - Kristin Kavanagh, DRBC Deputy Executive Director, will be the advisor for this committee
- **K. Cole:** DNREC is developing a statewide climate action plan with three public engagement sessions scheduled in Georgetown on March 3rd, in Wilmington on March 4th at the public library, and in Dover on March 5th at the Del Tech Conference Center.

Adjourn

3:15 pm